

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for converting text to concatenated voice by
2 utilizing a digital voice library and a set of playback rules, the digital voice library
3 including a plurality of speech items and a corresponding plurality of voice
4 recordings wherein each speech item corresponds to at least one available voice
5 recording, the method comprising:
6 receiving text data;
7 expanding the text data to form a sequence of text and pseudo words;
8 converting the sequence of text and pseudo words into a sequence of
9 speech items in accordance with the digital voice library;
10 converting the sequence of speech items into a sequence of voice
11 recordings in accordance with the set of playback rules;
12 generating voice data based on the sequence of voice recordings by
13 concatenating adjacent recordings in the sequence of voice recordings.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further
2 comprises:
3 searching the text data for an abbreviation; and
4 expanding any abbreviation contained in the text data into at least one
5 pseudo word.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further
2 comprises:
3 searching the text data for a numerical suffix; and
4 expanding any numerical suffix contained in the text data into at least
5 one pseudo word.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further
2 comprises:
3 searching the text data for a telephone number; and
4 expanding any telephone number contained in the text data into at
5 least one pseudo word.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further
2 comprises:
3 searching the text data for a number that includes a comma; and
4 expanding any number that includes a comma contained in the text
5 data into at least one pseudo word.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further
2 comprises:
3 searching the text data for an Internet mail address; and
4 expanding any Internet mail address contained in the text data into at
5 least one pseudo word.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further
2 comprises:
3 searching the text data for an Internet Universal Resource Locator;
4 and
5 expanding any Internet Universal Resource Locator in the text data
6 into at least one pseudo word.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of speech items
2 includes a plurality of phrases, and wherein converting the sequence of text and
3 pseudo words further comprises:
4 parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any
5 phrases.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the plurality of speech items
2 includes a plurality of words, and wherein converting the sequence of text and
3 pseudo words further comprises:
4 parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any
5 words.

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